Cati,
marry me.

O-of course!

My dream is
to be a young rich widow
and… uh… wander in
melancholy wrapped in
a black veil—

I'm not planning to die anytime soon.

No,
of course
not.

Do I have to be *on the edge of life and death* like Mateo to be accepted?

Definitely.
If not, what would
become of my dream?

It would be
ridiculous to wear a
black veil if you
didn't—

I'm serious.
I don't believe it.

I haven't been so serious in my whole life.

Are you...
proposing?!
But
why?
Why so
suddenly?!

I just realized that it's the most logical thing to do. I don't know how I didn't see it until now.

You and me, together. Married.

Like now, but seeing each other every day instead of by chance.

I'd only have
to ask you about your
schedule for the day before
heading to work instead of
wondering what you
would be doing.

And instead of
going alone to those boring
medical meetings, I could
go arm in arm with
my wife.

Wife…

I see it perfectly
clear now. I was afraid
of changing my life
and I behaved like a
coward.

I'm not a jealous
person –jealousy means
weakness of character— and,
despite that, I hid from you
that my nephew...

Well, he wrote a **poem** for you... but I knew you couldn't read and took advantage of it and—

T-The whole thing was nonsense because he's only seventeen and has no brain!

But that wasn't right. I didn't want to admit that I...

I have to make things right! I don't want to be a bitter old man that never took the opportunity to be happy.

Oh, did I tell you
that you look beautiful
today?

Agk!
What's
happening?

This attack
of sincerity!

You said
you wanted a normal
date to get to know
each other better.

Is this what you call *going step by step*?

Cati, we've had lots of dates without realizing it.

Dammit,
we've saved each
other's lives!

We make
a good team and I
think we'd be fine
together.

Actually I think we'd be **really** fine.

You can't know that!
You're talking so lightly
about marriage...

But marriage is the purpose of dating, isn't it?

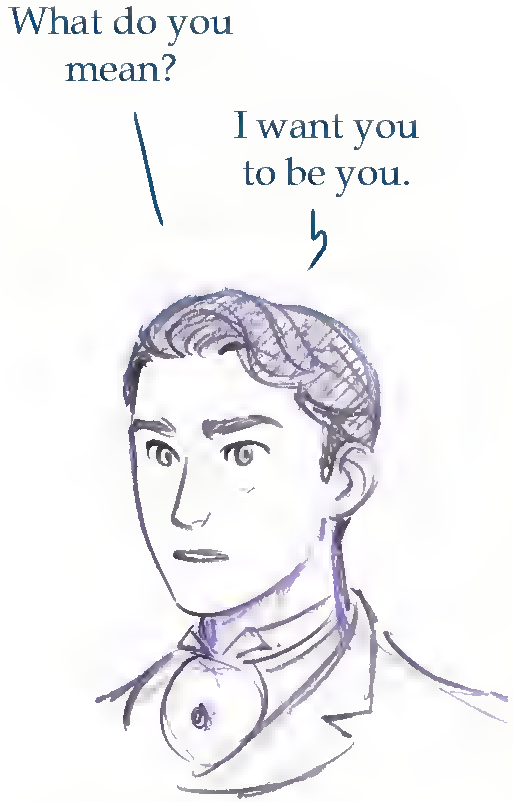
What are we now? Friends who kiss the moment they're alone?

Is that enough for you?

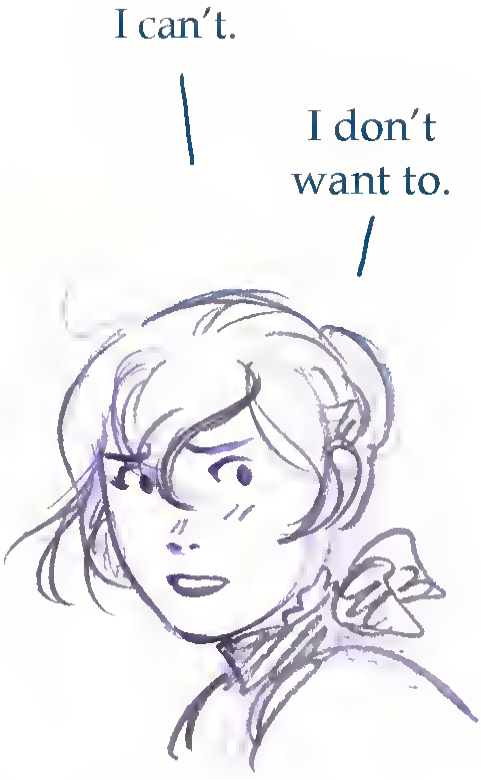
Yes.
No.
I guess no.

But… I've never seen myself as somebody's wife!

I don't know what I'm supposed to do or what you want me to be!

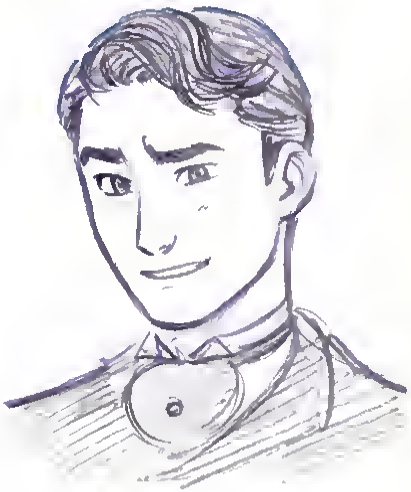

What do you mean?
I want you to be you.

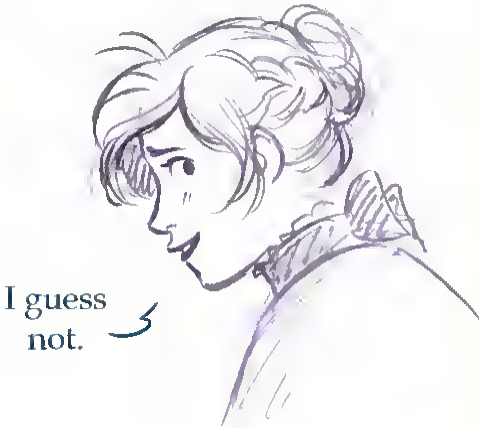
I couldn't
stay at home cleaning
and waiting for my
husband.


I can't.
I don't want to.

I-I don't even like cooking!
I virtually live off of tuna sandwiches!

You don't really believe
that I want to marry you for
your **culinary skills**,
do you?




I guess not.

It's a little *mortifying* having to convince you that I'm a good catch, but okay. You should make a list of pros and cons.

In the pro list,
with red ink, you should
write that I can cook.

Meat, fish, rice,
stews—You name it.

What else
could I write?

I don't drink,
I don't gamble, and
my personal hygiene
is impeccable.

Write that
I play violin, I don't
make grammar mistakes,
and I barely snore
while sleeping.

Pfft!

Also write
that I love you.

It's the
truth.

Mateo knows,
your friend Rebeca
knows. Even Mr. Barone
knows.

It doesn't
make sense to continue
denying it or calling it
something else.

What happened to the "Spring theory"?
That was me being a fool.

Cati, take your time to think about this.

Maybe I moved too quickly—would you rather we pretend this never happened?

I don't think I could pretend that.

No, of course, haha! Neither do I.

Well, I can't think of anything else to add.

Tell me, is there anyone in your past waiting for you to come back?

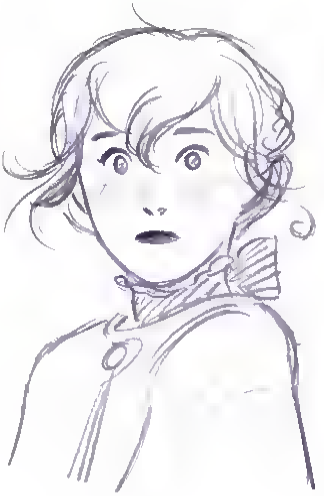
Not anymore.
And you? Do you have more fiancées like Miss Herrick?

Are you afraid that someone will attempt to reclaim me?
I wouldn't like to accept your proposal only to find that a fancy city lady had come to challenge me to a duel.

Would you
duel for me?

No, I'd explain to her over a cup of hot chocolate that you don't belong to her.
Nor to me.

And if
I want to
belong to you?



You're not
a thing to be owned.
Nobody belongs to
anybody.

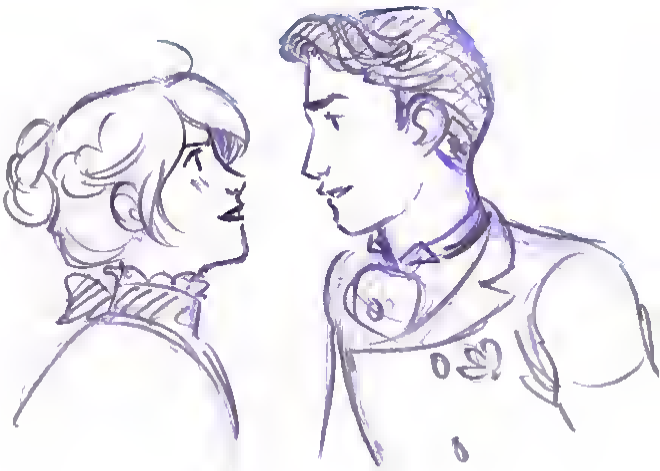
Is that an elegant way of rejecting me?

No!
My friends in
Amazonia taught
me that.

It means that you
have to obey only yourself
and your principles...
and... also—

I know.

It means that you're not my boss, so you can't force me to go to the jungle with you like the dangerous savage you are.



Ha! You wouldn't last an hour there.

You were SO brave
in the jungle, but here
you're a little coward,
aren't you?

Me, a coward?!
Ha! You know what?
I accept your proposal.

I had my reasons to doubt, but you asked for it. I accept!
I wasn't daring you.
This is definitely **not** a dare!

But I have to warn you:
I'm not an easy person to
handle, and many people
think that I'm weird.

You don't
say.

Also I refuse
to be referred to as
"the missus" when you
talk about me.

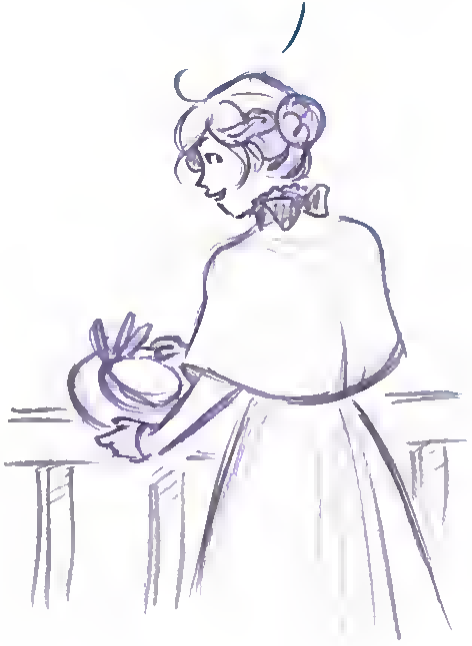
I'm offended
you could imagine me
using that expression.

All right.
We have a deal.

From now on we're **engaged**. Let's set a period of fifteen days in which either of us can change their mind.

They say that
marriage is a contract,
but I imagined this moment
being a little more
romantic.

Well, next time
you propose to someone,
maybe wait until the
second date.



I'll keep that in mind, thank you for the advice.

Shall we go to a restaurant? It's almost time for dinner.

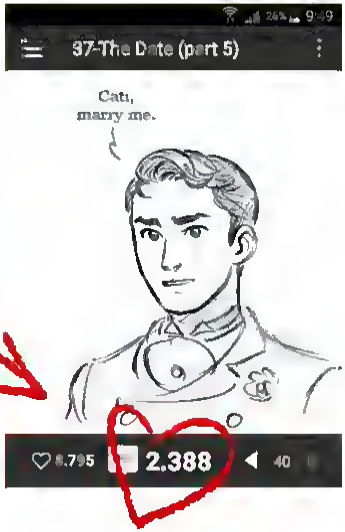
Thank you, but I can't. I need to think about all this.

And you can't do that while we eat?

No, sorry —
your eyebrows
don't allow me
to focus.

My...?
See you tomorrow, okay? Good night!

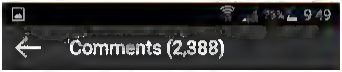
And there she goes, **my fiancée**...
scratch scratch



Peoples, I had a great time reading all your comments, thank you!

LoL X1000

On the other hand...



catty-cahill 5 days ago | REPORT

TOP A LITTLE TOO FAR THERE OOCTOR!
THE SHIP JUST LEFT THE PORT! WE ARE NOT
PREPARED TO GO FULL STEAM AHEAD!

REPLIES(44) 10448

FanGirlBlossom 5 days ago | REPORT

TOP marriage proposal on the first date...
Smooth

REPLIES(23) 9466

Some Unicorn 5 days ago | REPORT

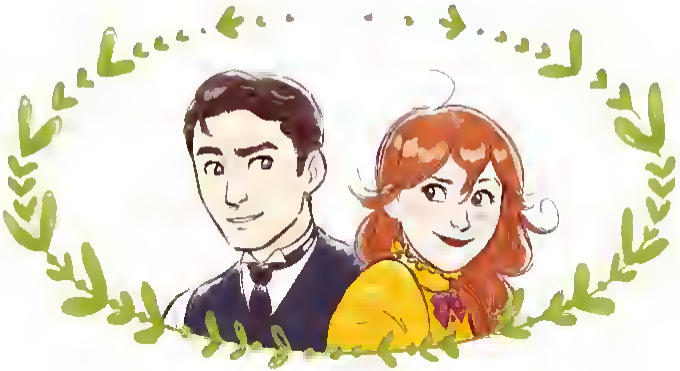
TOP OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG
OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG
OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG
OMG OMG *BREATH* OMG OMG OMG OMG
OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG
OMG OMG OMG OMG OMG

REPLIES(29) 8833

8.795 2.388 40

See you in a few days!

@maripaz_villar



Miss Abbott and the doctor

STORY + ART

Maripaz Villar

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